

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

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# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, July 31. 1707.

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**O** The *Pope*, the *Pope*, the *Pope*! alas for the *Pope*! Say all the People that wish well to his Holyness; what will the Holy Father do, if he falls into the Clutches of these Uncircumcis'd *Germans*? 'Tis well they are not Protestants, for it seems they begin already to huff the old Gentleman, and have made no Conscience of breaking the Conditions they made with him before; and had they been Hereticks, it would certainly have been laid at the Door of their Religion——And much room there had been to have set all the Catholics in that Part of the World a praying against the Unsanctify'd Oppressors.

But 'tis a sad Story now, that even their own Catholick Neighbours should use their Sovereign Pontiff in such a manner, and that without regard to St. *Peter*, or all the Authority of an immediate Succession from

him, they should carry it so hardly with his Holyness, that he should be oblig'd to have recourse to the Temporal Sword, and call in his Forces into the City, wall up the Gates, fortifie St. *Angelo*, and lay up Provisions.

I could divert you here with some Enquiries into Pontifical Power, and observe how the Thunders of the *Vatican*, which so often have humbled, even the Predecessors of his *Imperial Majesty*, and brought the lowly Emperor to lay his Neck under the Feet of the *Pope*; have now lost all their Terrors, and the Fulminations of the Cannon and Musquet must be apply'd to now, if there be any occasion for his Holyness to reduce the Kings of the Earth, for that they are no more to be terrify'd with the white Powder of Curses and Excommunications.

But

But let this pass for the present ; the truth is, the *Imperial* Court has a long time stood in need of these Arguments at *Rome*, and therefore I must own, had not the Pressing Exigence of the Affairs of *Spain* and the *Rhine*, call'd for the Troops to more immediately necessary Service, there was more occasion for this March of the *Imperialists* to *Italy*, than every body will perhaps allow.

Nor is the Kingdom of *Naples* the meer design of this Voyage, as I believe will appear—The management of the Court of *Rome* has really wanted this kind of Treatment for some Years, and the Investiture of *Naples* may now be had, perhaps at a short warning, and the *Pope* go without the white *Nag*, which us'd to be the Badge of the Homage of that Country to the *Pontiff*.

Well, if his Holyness loses nothing but the Horse by the bargain, he will come off very cheap ; but I fear the *German* humour of railing the *Gelt*, will not let them pass thro' the Ecclesiastical Territories, without taking Toll of *St. Peter*—And if our Lady of *Loretto* passes free without any Civil Depredation upon her immense Treasure, she will have better luck than honest People have had in like Cases ; perhaps they may treat her civilly, and take a Bribe, or content themselves with a Sum of Money, and not prophane her *Santa Casa*, the holy Casket of Miraculous Idolatry ; but I must own I am mistaken in the *Germans*, if they do not make some pretence by way of Loan or Gift, or some other less convenient Method, to feel the Effect of her Ladyship's Bounty.

As for his Holyness, 'tis confess'd he has all along puzzl'd the Cause in this Matter of *Naples*, and upon all other occasions has shown too much partiality for the *French*, not to let the World see which way he kept his Eye, and what he aim'd at ; he has amns'd both, spoke fair to both, and not a little deceiv'd both, and it was really time for the Emperor to put an End to this Ecclesiastical Juggling, which I suppose he will now do in an effectual manner—And if I mistake not the Temper of the *Germans*, we shall find they will hardly content themselves now with a bare declaring himself in their favour,

but will positively demand what they only Solicited for before, and in this the *Pope* will but be rightly serv'd ; for as a Temporal Prince, he has acted most unaccountably with the Emperor, and has neither observ'd a Neutrality, nor yet declar'd either on one side or the other.

Nor can the *Germans* easily forget the partiality of the *Pope*, when they were reduc'd to the last extremity on the Frontiers of *Ferrara* ; when his Holyness assisted the *French* to surround the *Imperialists*, by admitting them into his Towns, and giving them possession of their Passes, after they had deny'd them to the *Germans* ; by which means they were oblig'd to quit their Footing in *Italy*, and retreat to the Borders of *Trent*, and almost to retire behind the Mountains.

In this Affair the *Pope* was very far from acting fairly with the *Germans*, but play'd them a true *Italian* Trick—And if they do not pay him home for it now, I am mistaken—And let who will pity them.

As to the March to *Naples*, the *Imperial* Army goes on slowly, but that not as if it were with Caution or fear of being Defeated, but as to a certain Conquest, as to receive not to Conquer ; they go with such an assurance of the possession of that Kingdom, as if it was their own ; and this I believe gave Birth to some Speculations in the World, Importing that in the Treaty for the *French* quitting *Lombardy*, they had Capitulated for quitting *Naples* with it.

But I cannot but say, the Design upon *Toulon* seems to me to be the only thing that will make the Conquest of *Naples* easy to the *Germans*, for certainly had the *French* been able to have sent 8000 Men to the Assistance of the Viceroy of *Naples*, he would find the *Germans* work enough in that Country, and perhaps make them send back for a Reinforcement.

But they go on secure of this, and therefore we see they leave the Matter, not as a thing in so much haste, but that it may give way to a Design of as much Consequence, viz. their making a Market of the *Pope* as they go ; what Terms they demand of the *Pope*, and what abatements his Holyness will obtain, Time will discover—But this is certain,



tain, that his Holyness, being abandon'd of his Powerful Ally, the *French King*, must comply with whatever they insist upon; all his Weapons now are only Prayers and Tears, I mean Submissions and Expostulations; and what Influence these will have upon the Trumpet and the Kettle Drum, I cannot determine.

We are assur'd already, that the *Germans* are as it may be said, actually in Possession of his Holyness, nay, some of their Troops have been within the Walls of *Rome*, under a pretence of a Guard to Count *Taurin*, and all the *Pope's* Power dares not refuse it—And in this posture, what can the *Pope* deny that they please to ask of him; whether it be Arms, Ammunition, Towns for Places of Arms, Provisions, or Money, they must have it; nay, if they should demand of the *Pope* to banish all the *French* Embassaries out of *Rome*, or deliver them up to them, and then to declare Ecclesiastical War against his two Eldest Sons, their most Catholick and Christian Kings, he must obey.

And when this is consider'd, no body can blame the *French* Cardinal, and the Ambassadors of *Spain* and *France* for hiring Soldiers, and fortifying their Pallaces; indeed, I should rather expect to hear they were all run out of the City, and had taken Sanctuary in the Duke of *Tuscany*, or the *Pope's* Gallies, in order to secure themselves.

'Tis a wonderful thing to Reflect upon the Folly of the Times, and the ridiculous Conduct of the Princes of this Age: how the *Popes* Court has always been the Theatre, where the several Princes of *Europe* have Acted their State-Comedies; and here they have their Mountebank Ministers Resident, who as they call it, manage the Affairs of their respective Countries—And upon the Death or removal of such or such an Ambassador, we have it often said, such a Cardinal, or such a Count, is left to take care of the Affairs of *France*, or *Spain*, or the *Emperor*.

And what are these weighty Affairs? Truly very odd ones; sometimes such, as setting up the Arms of their Masters over their Door, getting the inestimable Privilege of their Coaches going before or behind one another in a Cavalcade, or the Sacred and most Valuable Authority of protecting a Bankrupt or an Assassin within their Pallaces,

and maintaining the Insolent Behaviour of their Servants, in affronting, and sometimes knocking on the Head the Officers of Justice, in pursuing Debtors or Criminals too near their Sacred Houses.

Next to these mighty Affairs, comes the Church Affairs; and here the Princes of the World Tax their Clergy, and then ask the *Pope* leave for it; appoint Bishops, and then most Humbly beseech the *Pope* to make them fight for Kingdoms; and when they have gotten them by the Sword, then most Obediently seek the Investiture of them of his Holyness.

Such sanctifi'd Legerdemain as this, is the support of the very Being and Nature of the Court of *Rome*—And yet we always find, that after all the Courting and Intriguing at *Rome* by the several Princes, to obtain this or that thing; the *Pope* never fails to grant it to him, whosoever is in a Condition to take it without his Leave; nor is it often that any Prince, making an humble Request for any thing of the *Pope*, recedes from it upon the *Pope's* Refusal; a late famous Instance of which we have in the Duke of *Savoy*.

Then we have the profound and most sublime Art of Intriguing, in the Grand Affair, of making Cardinals, and choosing *Popes*; and in all these there is so much Trick, Softning, Sweetning, Bribing, Caballing, and all manner of Court-Cunning, that the whole Court of *Rome* is a meer *Bartholomew Fair*.

I have nothing to say here to their Spiritual Fopperies, 'tis plain to me all the Sanction they now have left them, is just as much as the Policies of Princes in opposition to one another please to suffer; and that whenever they please, it is nothing to them to Insult the Holy Father himself, and tread under Foot all that Reverence, which at another time they submit to.

And this is part of the Farce that is now Acting by the *Germans*, in which I believe we should all look on with satisfaction enough; if we were not with regret seeing the *Emperor* playing this small Game, at the Expence almost of his Imperial Dignity, and the Prosperity of all his Allies, who even by this piece of particular Conduct, are reduc'd to a necessity of standing still to look on upon one Action, and cannot Act as they would do

do with Success in other Places ; this one Article having open'd a Door of so many Advantages to the *French*, that if Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy*, does not strike some fatal Blow to the *French*, give them some Coup d' *Esprit* on the side of *Provence*, they are in a fair way to make a better Campaign than even themselves could have the least Reason to expect, I am sure a much better than the Face of Affairs at the End of the last Campaign promis'd us. —

In the mean time, the *Pope* is really under some Spiritual Exercise, and I think they may very well say there with the *Silver-smiths* of *Ephesus* ; *This, our Craft is in Danger* ; for really these Occasional Insults of the Holy See, by the Temporal Sword, have been the true Original Cause of the Decay of the Spiritual Authority and Influence of the *Pontiff* upon the Kingdoms of the World.

Every Insult a provok'd Prince has offer'd the Ecclesiastical Dignity, has but serv'd to point out to other Princes the proper Method to be taken with them—And to shew the little signification of the Church Power, when the Civil Authority of Government comes in Competition.

The *Emperor* therefore is but really playing the Protestant in this ; and no doubt would an Interdict in this Case be of any use to his Holyness, he would Fulminate them to the last degree, till they would all stink of Brimstone like Mount *Strombolo*—But that Thunder has so often been found to carry no Bolt in it, that the very *Italians* themselves have learnt to contemn it.

Well, let them go on—And let them pull down the Authority of a Court, which subsists only by the Mistakes and Follies of the Times—Were not, I say, the whole Cause of *Europe* depending upon it, nobody would be under the least concern for this whole *Italian* Expedition, and his Holyness and the *German* might be left to make their own Bargains as they thought fit, and Trick that Trick can.

This only I must say, the *Imperialists* had best make all the Expedition in this *Neapolitan* Voyage they can ; for as the Clouds are Collecting on every side of the Empire,

I am very much mistaken, if in a few Days his *Imperial* Majesty does not find other and more necessary Employ for 14000 of his best Troops, than to Conquer Kingdoms—And perhaps may send in more haste for them home, than they made out—To defend his *Imperial* Person within the Walls of *Vienna* ; of which more hereafter.

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